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Germany (Russian Zone)

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SMA Pressure on Protestant Church

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During the first weeks of May, four German Protestant ministers returned from Russia and were at once brought to Superintendent General Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Krummacher. According to an agreement between Capt. Kratin and Krummacher, these ministers are slated for appointment to very important positions in the Protestant Church.

Dr. Krummacher is said to be special consultant to the Russians on church matters. He was an officer during the war but, source says, not a chaplain. While in Russian captivity, he became early an active member of the "National Committee for Free Germany" and once more officiated as minister. He worked in close cooperation with Erich Weinert. The committee's executive body entrusted him with the task of winning the church over to the Russian concept of political ideologies as accepted by the committee. Upon return from Russia in 1945 Krummacher was appointed to the important office he now occupies, allegedly by request of the Russians. Protestant ministers who switched from SPD to SED refused to recognize Krummacher and it was only due to SMA pressure that he stayed in office. Karlshorst's interest in Krummacher is supposed to have increased since the activities of Bishop Dibelius (head of the Protestant Church in the Soviet Zone and Berlin) appeared to become more and more anti-Russian. Plans are already completed to replace Dibelius with Krummacher.

Krummacher has established contacts with ministers who were active Nazis. For instance, he appointed Pastor Wienecke of Brandenburg (who at one time was one of the leading ministers in the Hitler-inspired "Deutsche Reichskirche") to the position of church superintendent of a large territory in the State of Brandenburg. There is also reason to believe that Krummacher's connections with the former German Officers' Band are being exploited for the new National Democratic Party.

It is claimed that all ministers released from Russian captivity were members of the National Committee of Free Germany and are now agitating in the Russian Zone for recognition by the Protestant Church of the "truly Christian ideals on which the Soviet Union is based".

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